



FACT SHEET



ASSET REUSE AT SAVANNAH RIVER

Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background and Challenges

In 1952, the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) began producing tritium and plutonium for the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. SRS continued to produce special nuclear materials until 1988. Then in 1989, after more than 40 years of supporting the Nation's nuclear weapons complex, SRS changed its mission and refocused its workforce toward activities and efforts associated with waste management and environmental restoration missions. Between 1993 and 1998, SRS experienced a work force reduction of approximately 6,700 prime contractor employees.

The Path to Progress

As the designated Community Reuse Organization (CRO) for the Savannah River Site, the region's largest employer, the Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative (SRRDI) is charged with the responsibility for developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to diversify the economy of the SRRDI region. In response to the downsizing of the site, SRRDI, DOE-SR, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, the State of South Carolina, and the community work together to achieve success.

Community Success Stories

Through its efforts, SRRDI has helped to diversify the region's economic base; create and retain high-value, long-term private sector jobs; and transfer SRS technologies to new and existing area firms for commercial application promoting valuable economic benefits to the region.

Community Assistance Funds Create New Jobs

SRRDI committed almost \$7 million in DOE funding to 38 planning and implementation projects within the five-county region in Georgia and South Carolina.

- SRRDI projects are expected to result in almost 3,000 jobs created or retained by 2001.



The EFCO Facility and excess equipment finds a new life



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- 440 new high value private sector jobs involved in manufacturing or R&D have already been created, and over 1,500 existing jobs were retained.
- SRRDI funding has supported the development of seven new technology-based products, start-up of six new technology-based companies in the region, and retrained over 1,600 area workers.

Asset Reuse Creates Jobs

- In 1996, SRS sold two 75-ton presses used to make fuel rods to EFCO Corporation of Monett, Missouri. EFCO manufactures high-quality window systems for commercial buildings.
- A number of organizations including DOE-SR, WSRC, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the Tri-County Alliance, SCANA (utility provider), and local economic development organizations formed a partnership to create a total economic incentive package. This package was instrumental in attracting EFCO to the region.
- This purchase agreement enabled EFCO to build a \$19 million production facility in Barnwell, South Carolina, using the purchased presses at the center of their production process.
- EFCO employs 500 people and their plans for expansion will be completed within two years, eventually employing 1,300 people.
- The Department of Energy and SRS required that the purchasing company locate in the area so that the new jobs created by the factory would be available to former SRS workers.
- EFCO's new factory has provided the area with a tremendous economic opportunity and, as an economic development agency chairman for the Tri-County area said, "It gave us a shot in the arm with the investment and the potential employment." (The State, 12/15/98)



An Operator at the Extrusion Press Control Panel creates aluminum window frames.

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